

MARCH THIRD DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

At a Meeting of the March Third District Drainage Commissioners
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Wednesday the 15th May 2019

PRESENT

R F Manchett Esq (Chairman)
S R Court Esq

D W Dunham Esq
Mrs G A M Siggee

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Commissioners) and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance. Mr Michael Deptford attended as a member of the public.

C.1064 Declarations of Interest

Miss McShane reminded the Commissioners of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any one of them.

C.1065 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 3rd May 2018 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

C.1066 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That R F Manchett Esq be appointed Chairman of the Commissioners.

C.1067 Land Drainage Act 1991 Fenland District Council

Miss McShane reported that Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillors M Cornwell and S R Court to be Commissioners under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Miss McShane also reported, however, that more recently Fenland District Council had advised that Mr Cornwell was no longer a nominated member of the Board and that all allocations to outside bodies will be made following the local elections and the Annual Council meeting on the 23rd May.

Councillor Court explained to the Commissioners that he had not been re-elected to the Council at the elections on the 2nd May and that he would cease being a member of the Council and the Commissioners from the Annual General Meeting of the Council on the 23rd May 2019.

C.1068 Appointment of Commissioners

Further to minute C.1027(ii), Miss McShane reported that Pashler Farms had been written to on two occasions and also Boor & Sons inviting them to nominate a representative but no responses had been received.

RESOLVED

That Mr Michael Deptford, Creek Farms Ltd, be appointed as a Commissioner.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Deptford to his first meeting of the Commissioners.

C.1069 Cannon Kirk

Further to minute C.1029, Miss McShane reported that this item appeared later in the agenda and would be considered as part of Consulting Engineers' Report.

C.1070 Rentals of Pillards Corner, March

Further to minute B.1030(b), Miss McShane reported that she had taken advice from Maxey Grounds & Co, who were acting as land agents for the Commissioners, regarding current values for agricultural land. Three of the tenancies were held under Agricultural Holdings Tenancies and although it may be possible to get a slightly higher rent of approximately £5/10 per acre there was currently very little movement with agricultural rents and their advice was to wait a further year to review these agricultural tenancies when there would be possibly more certainty about withdrawal from the EU and the position with subsidies. The other tenancies were let on Farm Business Tenancies at a much more 'commercial' rent and it would not be appropriate to undertake rent reviews on this land at the current time.

RESOLVED

- i) That rent review notices be served on the Commissioners' agricultural tenants in July/August 2019 in readiness for October 2019 which would be effective from October 2020.
- ii) That the Commissioners continue to use Maxey Grounds & Co as land agents.

C.1071 Updating DDC Byelaws

Further to minute C.1041(e), the Commissioners considered their updated Byelaws.

RESOLVED

That the updated Byelaws be adopted.

C.1072 Policy Statement

Further to minute C.1041(f), the Commissioners reviewed and approved their Policy Statement which had been updated following the publication of the National Audit Office (NAO) report on IDBs in March 2017.

RESOLVED

That the revised Policy Statement be adopted.

C.1073 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Further to minute C.1046, the Commissioners considered their Biosecurity Policy.

RESOLVED

That the Biosecurity Policy be adopted.

C.1074 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a second Chair's meeting was held on the 17th October 2018 and that discussions centred around meeting Health and Safety legislative requirements and the possible options for increased efficiency in delivery of IDB/DDC services. Outline detailed proposals on the latter are to be brought before the next Chair's meeting for consideration.

That a third Chair's Meeting was held on the 11th March 2019 and that discussions at this centred around :-

- 1) The provision of increased support to IDBs on Health and Safety management and control.
- 2) The Future investment planning for the Lower River Great Ouse catchment.
- 3) Future planning for IDBs and DDCs administered by the Middle Level Commissioners.
- 4) Member training.

One option for future Board arrangements discussed at the second and third meetings was the subject of a briefing paper.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners retain the briefing paper for future consideration.

ii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 81st Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Wednesday 14th November 2018 and had been well attended with the main

speakers being Sue Hayman MP, Shadow Secretary for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Robert Hössen crisis management expert from the Netherlands, John Curtin, Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management at the Environment Agency and David Cooper Deputy, Director for Flood and Coastal Erosion Management at Defra.

Sue Hayman Affairs spoke about her first-hand experience of flooding in Cumbria, the impact of flooding on mental health, building on flood plains and river management without environmental change and funding.

Robert Hössen gave a presentation on how incident management is organised and dealt with in the Netherlands.

John Curtin gave a presentation on the effects of climate change and referred to the government's discussions regarding the likelihood, impact and severity of climate change.

David Cooper referred to the 25 year environment plan and to various Government publications made in 2018, which can be viewed online.

That the Officers had been re-elected, subscriptions would be increasing by 2% for the following year and the Conference marked the launch of the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members.

That the Conference also marked the first presentation of the Chairman's award which were presented to Ian Russell from the Environment Agency for his work on Public Sector Co-operation Agreements and to Cliff Carson, former Environmental Officer of the Middle Level Commissioners and the Boards, for his work which was instrumental in changing views concerning conservation.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held in London on Wednesday the 13th November 2019.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association for any Commissioner who wishes to attend.

c) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association was held on Tuesday the 12th March 2019. The meeting format was changed this year and included a morning workshop session led by the EA. Topics covered were water resources, PSCAs and future planning of FRM. Robert Caudwell spoke for ADA in the afternoon followed by talks from Brian Stewart, the FRCC Chair, Paul Burrows, the FRM Area Manager and Claire Jouvray, the Operations Delivery Manager.

That the date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 3rd March 2020.

d) Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members

That, at the Annual Conference last November, ADA launched the publication of the Good Governance Guide for IDB Board Members. It provides Members with a comprehensive guide to their role as water managers servicing the local communities. The document has been produced with the financial support of Defra and will provide Members with knowledge to help expand their grasp of the role, and how best to execute their responsibilities on the Board.

That a copy of the Guide for each Member has been included with this agenda and can be downloaded from the ADA website.

That ADAs workshops were well attended and are helping to deal with the questions being raised by Defra following the Audit Commission Report which criticized aspects of IDB governance. At least one Commissioner attended one of the two local workshops in the area and hence the Board will be able to record in the IDB1 Defra return that training has been provided on Governance. In addition to governance Defra appear to expect over time that training will be given for the following; Finance, Environment, Health, safety and welfare and Communications and engagement. The Commissioners may wish to consider an order of priority for future training and a timetable for delivery.

e) Workstreams

That ADA annually review their workstreams and an update is included.

iii) External Bodies Conservation Initiatives

That there are two projects which may have an impact on the Commissioners:-

a) The New Life on the Old West project being led by Cambs ACRE which aims to improve public understanding of the unique nature of biodiversity in the Fens and to deliver improvements on community green spaces and the ditch network. At the time of report the project has received a £100k grant to develop the project to the point at which a further £3/4 million grant bid will be made to support delivery.

b) The Cambridgeshire Fens Biosphere, Heritage Lottery have provided £10,000 of funding to research what would be necessary to bring Biosphere Reserve status to the Fens. This project is being led by the Wildlife Trust with support from Cambs ACRE. If successful, this would lead to a new UNESCO designation. This would be a non-statutory designation which records the unique nature of the area. Most recently, the project received £1m for field scale alternative farming trial works in the Great Fen area and to assist with the Biosphere bid.

iv) Catchment Strategy

That the EA, LLFA, IDBs and other partners are co-operating in a piece of work which is looking at the pressures on the catchment from a development and climate change perspective. The aim will be to develop proposals which will guide and inform discussion makers.

v) Water Resources East Group Meeting

That the Middle Level Commissioners are setting up a Committee to discuss how they can work more closely with Anglian Water and other partners to ensure that the management of water and the quantity taken from the River Nene can be maximized in stressed years.

The Vice Chairman reported that water intake into the Middle Level system was via one point at Stanground and current flows were very low and, in his opinion, unless there is reasonable rainfall there could be the possibility of shortages. He reported that part of the work of the group was to model the intake for Anglian Water which could hopefully lead to a better overall allocation for agricultural use.

vi) Anglia Farmers

Further to minute C.1058, Miss McShane advised that the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract had been monitored and was pleased to report that the service provided had improved.

In view of the significant increase in prices observed a utility specialist was approached and like for like prices at the time of tender, for a sample of meters, were requested in order that a comparison could be made with the prices obtained by Anglia Farmers. Although some savings may have been made, overall the prices obtained from Anglia Farmers were found to be generally competitive.

A verbal report was presented to the Middle Level Commissioners at their last Board meeting and, based on the results of the pricing comparison exercise and in view of the service provided by Anglia Farmers having improved, the Middle Level Commissioners resolved to remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2019.

The Clerk had recommended that the Commissioners also remain with Anglia Farmers. However, should the Commissioners wish to choose to end their current contract, notice was required to be given by late January/early February 2019 following which they would then be responsible for negotiating their own separate electricity contract thereafter.

Miss McShane reported that the Chairman had subsequently agreed for the Commissioners to remain with Anglia Farmers.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved and the Commissioners remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2019.

vi) The New Rivers Authorities & Land Drainage Bill

That this Bill has completed its Committee stage in the House of Commons and passed through its Third Reading. It has now started its progression through the House of Lords.

The Bill, which has been prepared by Defra, aims to put the Somerset Rivers Authority onto a statutory footing as a precepting body, but it would also enable the reform of IDB ratings annual value lists. It does this by recognising the need to ensure that the methodology through which IDBs calculate and collect drainage rates and special levy sits on a sound legal

basis that can be periodically updated to contemporary values better reflecting current land and property valuation.

With the above in mind ADA has been working with Defra and a number of IDBs to test a new methodology using contemporary valuation and Council Tax lists that could be applied via this legislative change.

vii) Environment Agency consultation on changes to the Anglia (Central) RFCC

That a consultation is taking place on the constitution of three RFCCs following a formal proposal for two new unitary authorities to be formed in Northamptonshire (West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire) has been submitted to the Government for consideration. If approved these authorities would come into existence on the 1 April 2020.

In Buckinghamshire the decision to create a single unitary authority replacing the existing five councils has been made by the Government, subject to Parliamentary approval. It would come into existence on the 1 April 2020.

Each new authority will be a unitary authority, delivering all local government services in their respective areas, including their functions as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFAs).

The membership of Thames RFCC, Anglian (Central) RFCC, and Anglian (Northern) RFCC currently includes representation from one or both of the existing county councils. To reflect the changes proposed the membership of all three RFCC will need to be varied before 1 December 2019.

At the same time to better reflect a catchment-based approach it is proposed to change the name of Anglian (Central) RFCC to Anglian (Great Ouse) RFCC. ADA has stated that it supports the naming revision.

C.1075 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters.

The Commissioners considered the Report of the Consulting Engineers, viz:-

March Third D.D.C.

Consulting Engineers Report – April 2019

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Commissioners at their last annual meeting.

A Roundup herbicide application was made to reaches in advance of the programmed machine cleansing works, and to other district drains where it was required to control dense reed stands and emergent aquatic vegetation.

The Commissioners' flail mowing requirements were undertaken by Messrs Ashman last year. They have indicated they are available to undertake the Commissioners' flail mowing requirements again this year. A sum has been included within the estimated costs for flail mowing of district drains to be undertaken this year.

A recent inspection of the district drains has been undertaken with the District Officer. The inspection indicates the majority of drains are being maintained to a good standard and are in a generally satisfactory condition.

Drains to the West of the Bypass

The inspection highlighted that the drains to the west of the bypass are in a satisfactory condition. At this early time in the growing season there is some evidence of *filamentous algae* (cott) growth and sporadic stands of aquatic vegetation, most notably along Pillard's Corner drain, reaches 39-40 and 14-15-16-17-18-19 and Burrowmoor Farm drain reach 7-8. It is recommended they are treated with an application of Roundup herbicide and included within this year's machine cleansing programme once the adjacent crop has been harvested.

Further inspections will be carried out later in the year to identify any other areas that may need to be included in the machine cleansing programme. Historically late occurring algal blooms have been problematic and required clearing from the Commissioners' drains to the west of the bypass later in the season. A provisional sum has been included within the estimated costs to allow for any cott cleansing work that may be required.

Drains to the East of the Bypass

The district drains to the east of the bypass are in a satisfactory condition. The mild winter has led to a growth of watercress within the Gaul Road drain adjacent to the Cannon Kirk site, reaches 21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29 and 24-31-32. This will require an early season application of Roundup herbicide to prevent any further infestation. Drains within this area will be inspected later in the summer months to identify any that may require a second, subsequent application of herbicide.

A provisional sum has been included within this year's estimated costs to allow for any emergency bank repair, culvert clearance or debris removal and disposal works that may be necessary later in the year.



Watercress infestation in Reach 31-32

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain Maintenance works is as follows. Please refer to the site plan on the following page for locations.

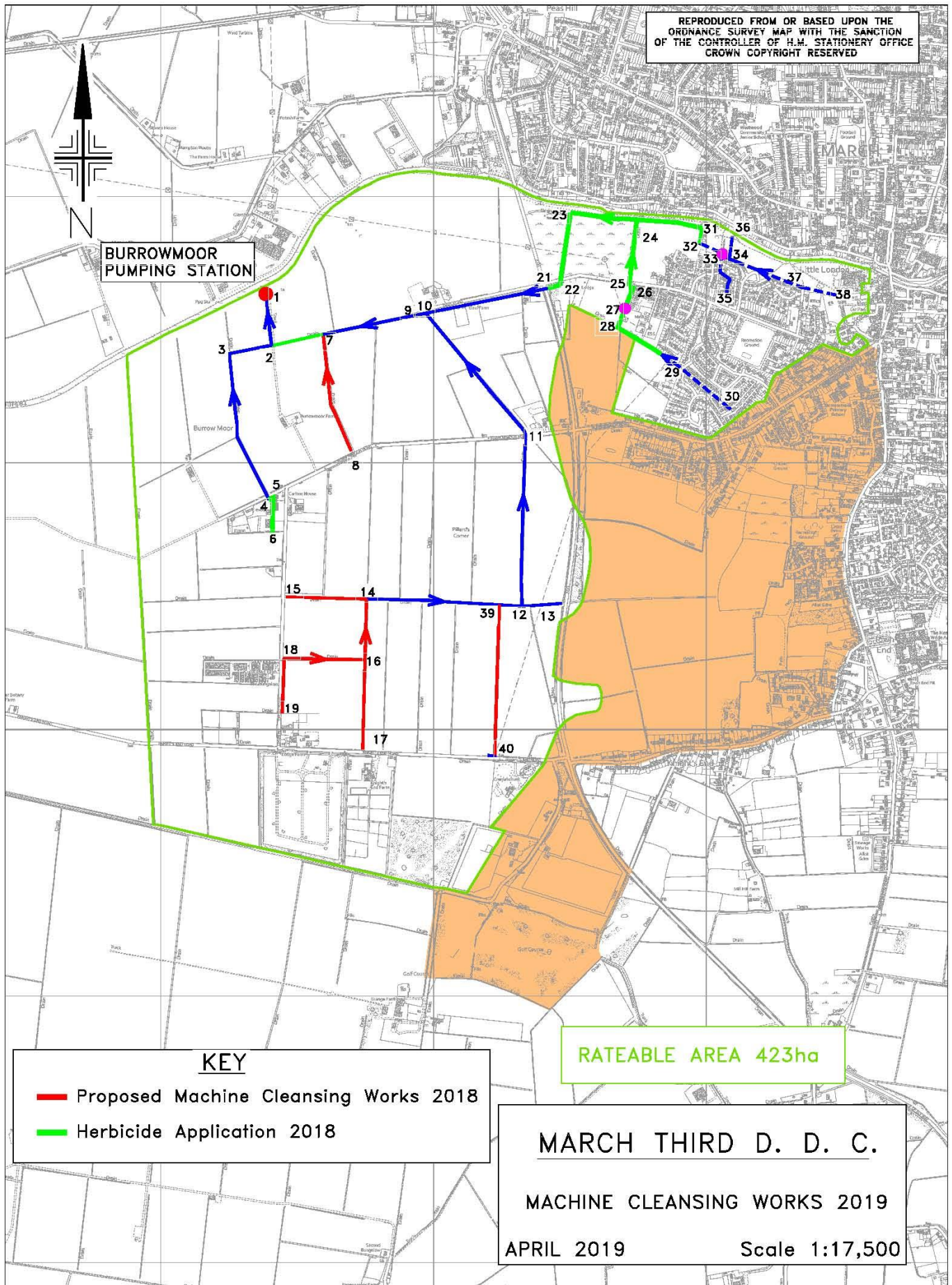
<u>Machine Cleansing</u>			£	£
1. Reaches 15-14-16-17	850 m	@	1.10	935.00
2. Reaches 16-18-19	500 m	@	1.10	550.00
3. Reach 39-40	550 m	@	1.10	605.00
4. Reach 7-8	450 m	@	1.10	495.00
5. <u>Provisional Sum</u>				
Allow sum for cott clearance or emergency machine cleansing works	Item	Sum		2000.00
6. Flail mowing district drains	Item	Sum		2000.00
7. <u>Provisional Sum</u>				
Allowance for emergency bank repair, culvert cleansing works or debris removal/disposal works	Item	Sum		750.00
8. Allow sum for Roundup application to reed and emergent weed	Item	Sum		500.00
9. Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Commissioners, arrangement and supervision of chemical applications and maintenance works	Item	Sum		850.00
TOTAL				<u>£ 8,685.00</u>

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they are weather dependent and they will not be held responsible for the efficacy of any treatments.

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BURROWMOOR
PUMPING STATION



Pumping Station

Other than the matters described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

At last year's meeting the Board asked if it is possible to control pump operations from outstation in middle of system, allowing them to react quicker to rising water levels (similar to St Germans & Bodsey). However the Board are advised that due to the small catchment of the district with little hydraulic gradient this arrangement is unlikely to provide any improvement. A mains power supply and broadband connection would also be required at the remote point.

Weedscreen Cleaner.

During January 2018 the weedscreen cleaner hydraulic pump failed and required replacement. It failed again in September 2018 and was replaced under warranty.

The no 2 pumpset motor winding resistance has improved again slightly and hence will be continue to be monitored. In the event repairs are required, it is hoped they would be limited to a general overhaul which would cost approximately £1000.

Pumping Hours

Pump	April 18 - April 19	April 17 – April 18	April 16 – April 17	April 15 – April 16	April 14 – April 15	April 13 – April 14
No 1	180	69	63	140	113	235
No 2	109	206	126	127	505	173

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 20 new applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
341	Pre-application Enquiry	Sanctuary Group	Residential (24 plots)	Kingswood Road, March*
342	F/YR18/0345/FDL	Executors of Mrs P Brewin	Residential (53 plots)	City Road, March*
343	F/YR18/0455/F	Partner Construction Ltd	Residential (94 plots)	Gaul Road, March*
344	F/YR18/0458/F	Sanctuary Affordable Housing Ltd	Residential (24 plots)	Kingswood Road March *
345	F/YR18/0562/F	Mr M Durrant	Residential (4 plots)	Church Street, March
346	F/YR18/0599/F	Messrs Siggee & Mrs Sanderson	Residence	Burrowmoor Road, March
347	F/YR18/0708/F	Cannon Kirk (UK) Ltd	Leisure (Riverside Park)	Bluebell Way, March

348	F/YR18/0729/F	Mr & Mrs K Ansell	Residence (Extension)	Richmond Avenue, March
349	F/YR18/0759/O	George Scarborough Ltd	Residential (9 plots)	Knights End Road, March*
350	F/YR18/0897/F	Miss S Lemmon	Residence (Gazebo)	Cricketers Close, March
351	F/YR18/0891/F	Mr L Brownlow	Residential (5 plots)	Gas Road March
352	F/YR18/0947/F	Millfield Developments	Residential (7 plots)	Gaul Road, March
353	F/YR18/1136/F	Clarion Housing Group	Residential (40 plots)	Springfield Avenue, March*
354	F/YR19/0018/F	Mr & Mrs K Ansell	Residence (Extensions)	Richmond Avenue, March
355	F/YR19/0016/F	Messrs Siggee & Mrs Sanderson	Residence	Burrowmoor Road, March
356	F/YR19/0033/F	Mr R Purser	Residence	Gaul Road, March
357	F/YR19/0067/F	Millfield Developments Ltd	Industrial (11 units)	Gaul Road, March
358	F/YR19/0087/F	Mr & Mrs Stokes	Caravan and tractor store	Cross Road, March
359	F/YR19/0075/F	Mr & Mrs Peart	Residence (Extension and conversion)	Knights End Road, March
360	F/YR19/0090/F	Partner Construction Ltd	Residential (80 plots)	Gaul Road, March*

Planning applications ending 'FDL' relate to Fenland District Land

Developments that propose direct discharge to the Commissioners' system are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder propose, where applicable and where known, surface water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems or sustainable drainage systems.

The following applicants have chosen to use the soakaway self-certifying process and, in doing so, agreed that if the soakaway was to fail in the future they would be liable for discharge consent.

- (i) Mr & Mrs K Ansell – Residential extensions at Richmond Avenue, March (MLC Ref No 348 & 354)

The following sites are either partly or wholly within the St Thomas' Cut catchment:

- (a) Mr M Durrant (MLC Ref No 345)
- (b) George Scarborough Ltd (MLC Ref No 349)
- (c) Mr L Brownlow (MLC Ref Nos 351)
- (d) Millfield Developments (MLC Ref No 352)
- (e) Clarion Housing Group (MLC Ref No 353)
- (f) Mr & Mrs Peart (MLC Ref No 359)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents concerning the following developments and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

- *Proposed re-development of the former Old Dairy Buildings, Grange Road, March - HR Property Development (MLC Ref Nos 156 & 165); Mr B Sutton (MLC Ref Nos 170 & 178); Mr G Harradine (MLC Ref Nos 209 & 221) & Mr M Reynolds (MLC Ref Nos 251 & 253)*
- *Residential development at 125 Burrowmoor Road, March – Mrs H Butler (MLC Ref No 200) & Mason Homes (March) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 242 & 245)*
- *Residential development to the north-west of Turnbull Road, off Gaul Road, March – Ashley King Developments (MLC Ref Nos 211, 226, 256 & 266)*
- *Erection of 8 dwellings – Anglian Regional Co-Op Society (MLC Ref No 227) & Erection of a single-storey building comprising of 2 no units for retail (A1) and retail (A1)/financial and professional services (A2), including installation of 4 no air conditioning units, ATM, formation of a new vehicular access and associated works, involving demolition of existing building at site of 43 to 47 The Causeway, March - GCC Investments (UK) Ltd (MLC Ref No 261)*

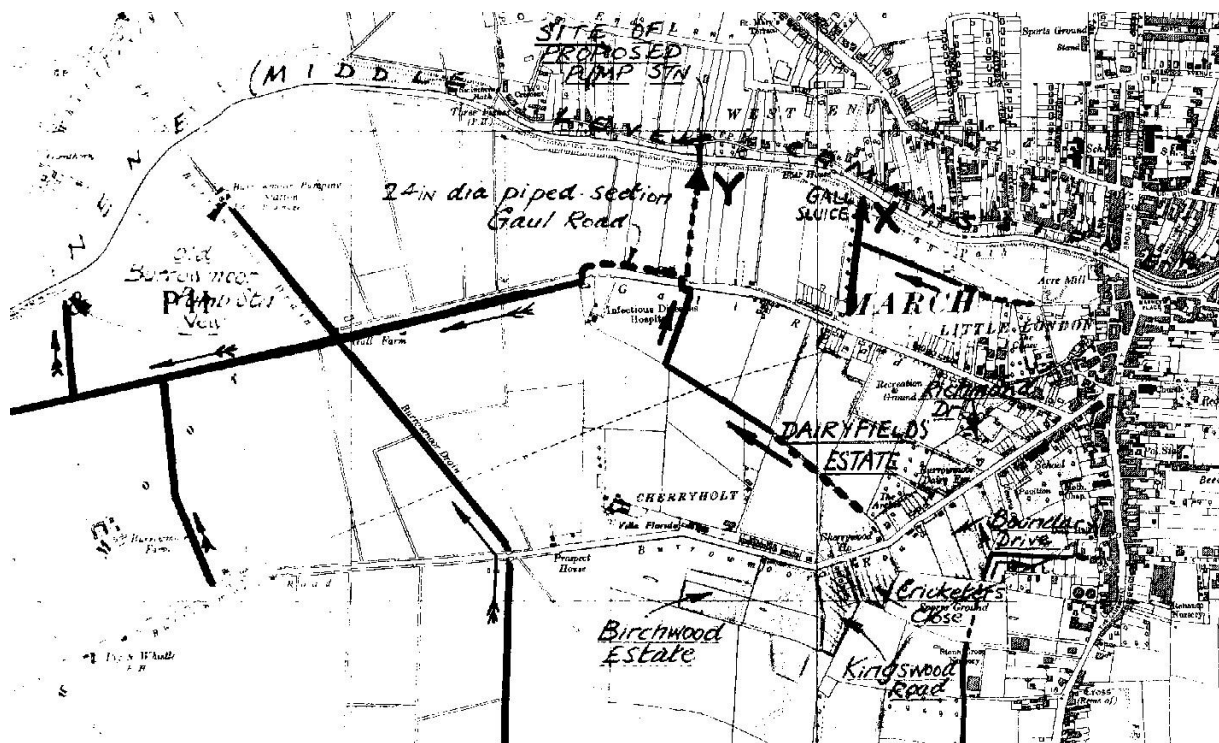
In view of the absence of recent correspondence and any subsequent instruction from the Commissioners it will be presumed, unless otherwise recorded, that the Commissioners are content with any development that has occurred and that no further action is required at this time.

Change of use of agricultural land to Riverside Park including pedestrian/cycle bridge, ponds, anglers' car park and landscaping on land south of River Nene, Gaul Road, March – Cannon Kirk UK Ltd (MLC Ref No 124 & 347) and residential development on land west of Old Council Depot, Gaul Road, March – Cannon Kirk UK Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 139, 193 & 296) & Signalised Junction Improvement Works to Gaul Road/A141 Junction - Cannon Kirk UK Ltd (MLC Ref No 193)

Further to the last meeting discussions have continued with the applicant and its consultants, Pick Everard, as part of the on-going post-application consultation process.

Signalised Junction Improvements to Gaul Road/A141 junction and the installation of a new uprated culvert under Gaul Road at Points 25-26

Following the issuing of the respective byelaw applications in early March members will be aware that works, undertaken by Durman Stearn, commenced on site in July as part of the larger highway's scheme. During the initial stages of the road widening element the MLC were asked to inspect a pipeline found on the northern side of Gaul Road. Following a brief review of the Commissioners' records a plan prepared in the early 1970s was found which refers to a 0.60m (24 inch) diameter pipeline on the northern side of Gaul Road. As a scheme for the provision of the current layout was undertaken circa 1975, it is assumed that the pipeline was "given up" at this time. A copy of this plan follows.



Extract from 1970s plan showing the pipeline on the northern side of Gaul Road

Whilst it would have been beneficial to retain this pipeline, which is under the bike lane, as it could act as a "bypass", it unfortunately clashed with the upstream headwall at Point 22 and was "decommissioned" by sealing at either end.

An inspection of the substantially complete works was undertaken by the Commissioners' Planning Engineer and Assistant Operations Engineer in December and, with the exception of the sheet piling at the downstream end of the culvert at Point 22, was considered to meet the Commissioners' requirements. The applicant has been advised that the Commissioners would not accept any responsibility for this sheet piling.

These works are now complete.

Culvert under the A141, storage lagoon and associated drain works

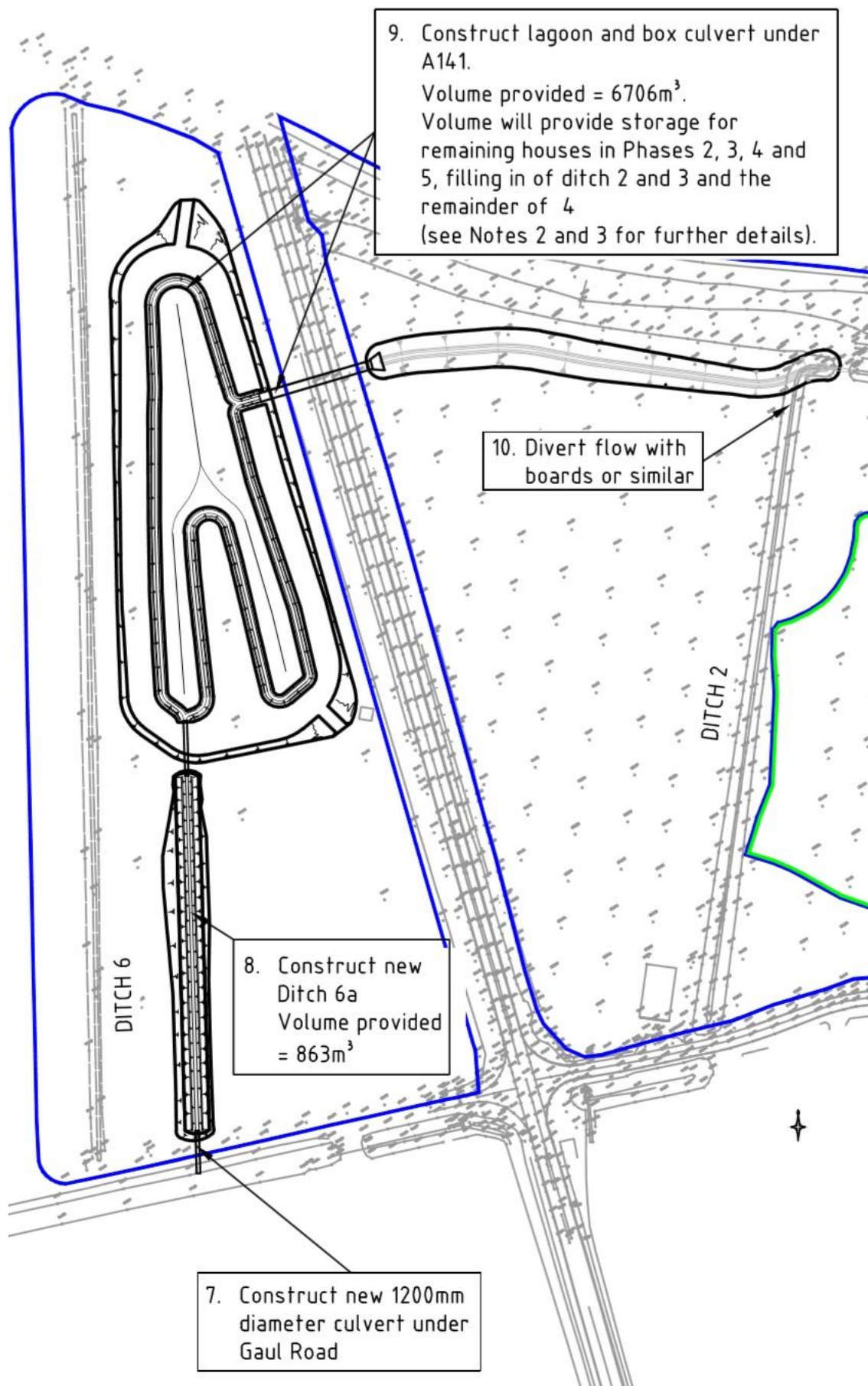
Following the approval from the applicant responses were made to enquiries from both the County Council, in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), and the District Council in respect of planning applications F/YR17/1171/F, Change of use of agricultural land to surface water lagoon and associated drainage works, and F/YR17/3159/COND, a surface water condition relating to the original planning application (MLC Ref Nos 336 & 337 respectively).

The latter was granted planning permission subject to the imposition of conditions in May and the former in July. Neither Decision Notice included an informative referring to the Commissioners.

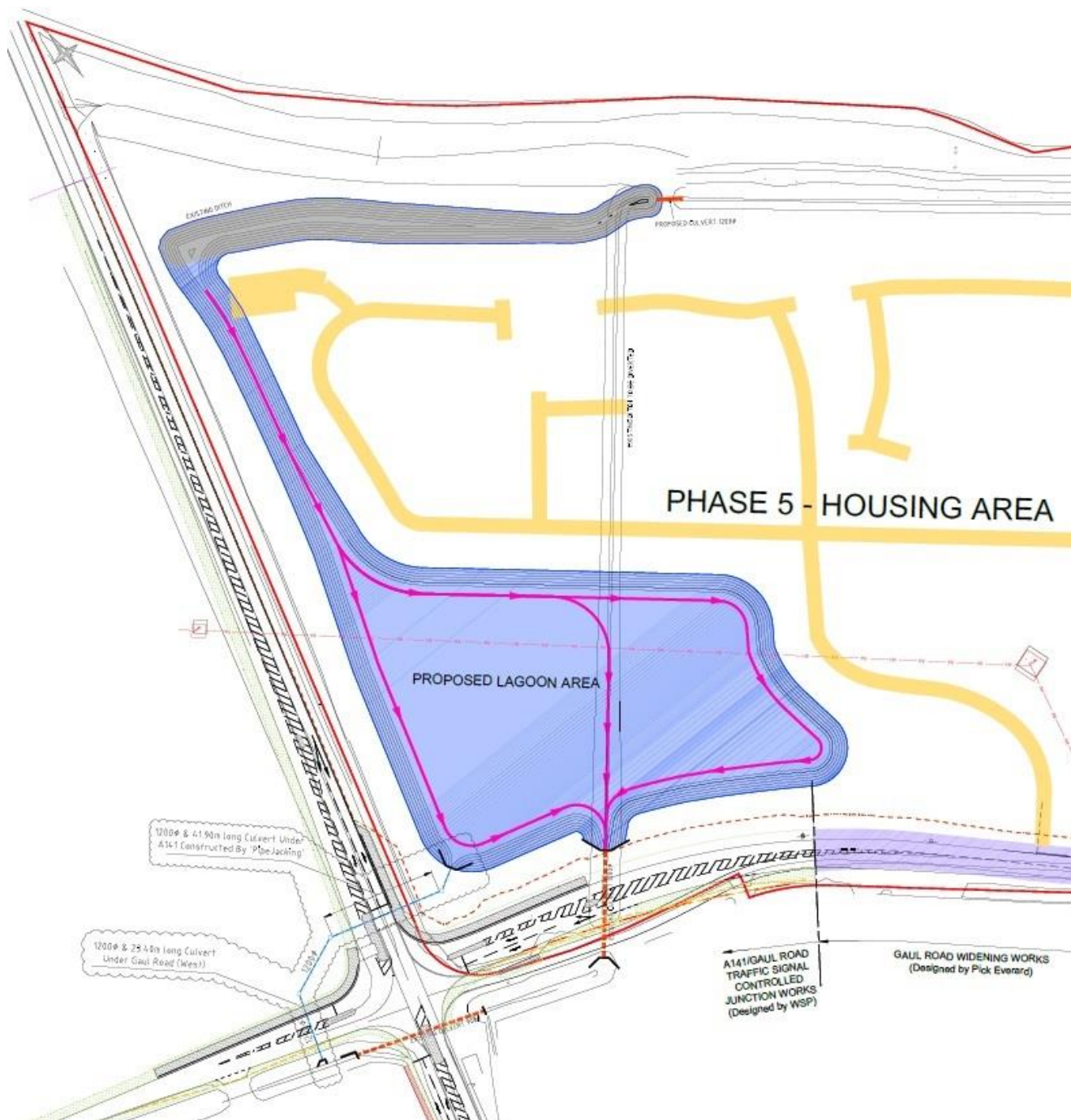
Members will recall that following extensive discussion with both the applicant and Pick Everard a proposed water level and flood risk management scheme was approved “in principle” by the Commissioners at its 2015 meeting. Beside the items which have been the subject of other requirements ie planning conditions, highway requirements etc, elements of which are discussed above, the agreed phasing has been adhered to. However, following a review of the design options and viability of the proposal the applicant now wishes to locate the lagoon on the east side of the A141. Extracts showing the approved and proposed layouts are on pages 9 and 10.

An internal consultation has been undertaken and the comments made will guide further discussions. During the consultation the Chairman advised that he was content for the MLC to discuss the matter further with the applicant in order to seek an appropriate solution.

A progress meeting to discuss the various issues involved with this proposal is currently being arranged with the applicant and its consultant.



Extract from Pick Everard's Drawing No 060053/C/259 Rev. E as approved by the Commissioners at their 2015 meeting



Extract from Pick Everard's Drawing No 060053 C/714 Rev. C

The extension to West End Park

Further to the last meeting a planning application (MLC Ref No 347) has been submitted to the District Council on which, according to the District Council's Public Access webpage, a decision is pending.

No recent consultation has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this aspect of the development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Residential development on land west of 12 Knights End Road, March - Cannon Kirk Homes Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 204, 207 & 252), Construct Reason (MLC Ref No 291) and George Scarborough Ltd (MLC Ref No 349)

Further to the Commissioners' 2017 Meeting Report a planning application has been submitted to, and subsequently granted permission by, the District Council. The Decision Notice includes the imposition of suitable conditions and includes a Drainage Advisory Note that refers to the need to meet the Commissioners' requirements and advises that contact should be made at the earliest opportunity to discuss any such requirements.

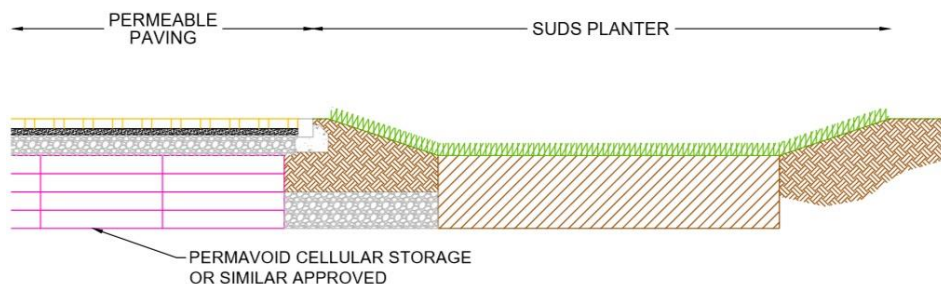
To date no recent consultation has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Cannon Consulting Engineers proposed to provide the majority of the required attenuation for the proposals within shallow crates located beneath the driveways of each property, and those sections of the proposed access roads which are likely to remain private.

Treatment of runoff from the private hardstanding will be provided via the permeable paving/surfacing. Treatment of runoff from the proposed access road would be provided within a shallow grassed filtration basin/SuDS planter. Flows from the road would be conveyed via kerb/channel drains to the basin, and then enter the attenuation facility via a filtration layer with the discharge controlled by a suitably protected orifice control housed in a chamber.

The submitted documents advise that maintenance of the majority of the surface water management scheme would be undertaken by a private management company.

Given the nature of the soils in the area it is considered unlikely that this feature will provide any significant infiltration benefits.



SECTION A - A SuDS PLANTER/PERMEABLE PAVING

Extract from Cannon Consulting Engineers Drawing Number V551 - PL - SK - 300 Rev. P01 showing a section through the suggested drainage system



Extract from Cannon Consulting Engineer's Drawing Number V551 - PL - SK - 300 Rev. P01
showing a suggested SuDS layout

Residential development involving the demolition of existing outbuildings and sheds on land north of 33 Gaul Road fronting Oxbow Crescent, March - Mr F Grounds (MLC Ref Nos 168, 183 & 214), Gaul Developments LLP (MLC Ref No 240), Construct Reason Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 256, 306, 316 & 338), Wisbech Homes (MLC Ref Nos 270 & 276) and Millfield Developments (MLC Ref No 352)

Further to the last meeting a further planning application has been submitted to, and subsequently granted permission by, the District Council. The Decision Notice includes the imposition of suitable conditions but does not include a Drainage Advisory Note that refers to the need to meet the Commissioners' requirements or advise that contact should be made at the earliest opportunity to discuss any such requirements.

To date no recent consultation has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agent concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

It is understood it has been proposed that surface water disposal will be via soakaways.

Planning Application for Affordable Rent and Shared Ownership at the site of the former Kingswood Park Care Home, Kingswood Road, March - Sanctuary Group (MLC Ref Nos 244, 249, 259, 341 & 344)

Further to a meeting held in early April 2018, attended by the main stakeholders, a planning application was submitted to the District Council in May and according to its Public Access web page a decision is pending.

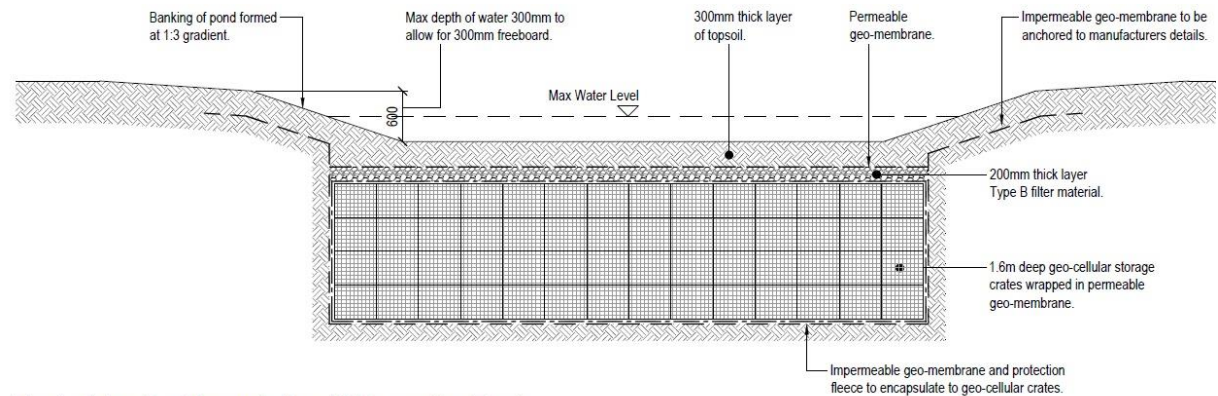
The applicant's Consulting Engineer, Peter Dann Ltd, currently proposes the formation of a balancing pond with storage crates beneath it, as shown on the following drawing, that will be pumped under the existing track and discharge into an adjacent open watercourse. A response is currently being prepared.

Members will recall that the applicant is working with other partners concerning the resolution of drainage problems in the Butt Avenue/Brewin Avenue/Kingswood Road area. However representatives from the main promoters of these works, the District Council and the County Council's Highways Department, have now left their employment. The MLC Planning Engineer with the County Council's Flood and Water

team are currently trying to organise another meeting in order to resolve both this element and the re-development of the application site.



Extract from Peter Dann Limited Drawing No 10-6692 ZZ-DR-D2001 Rev. P4 showing the proposed drainage layout



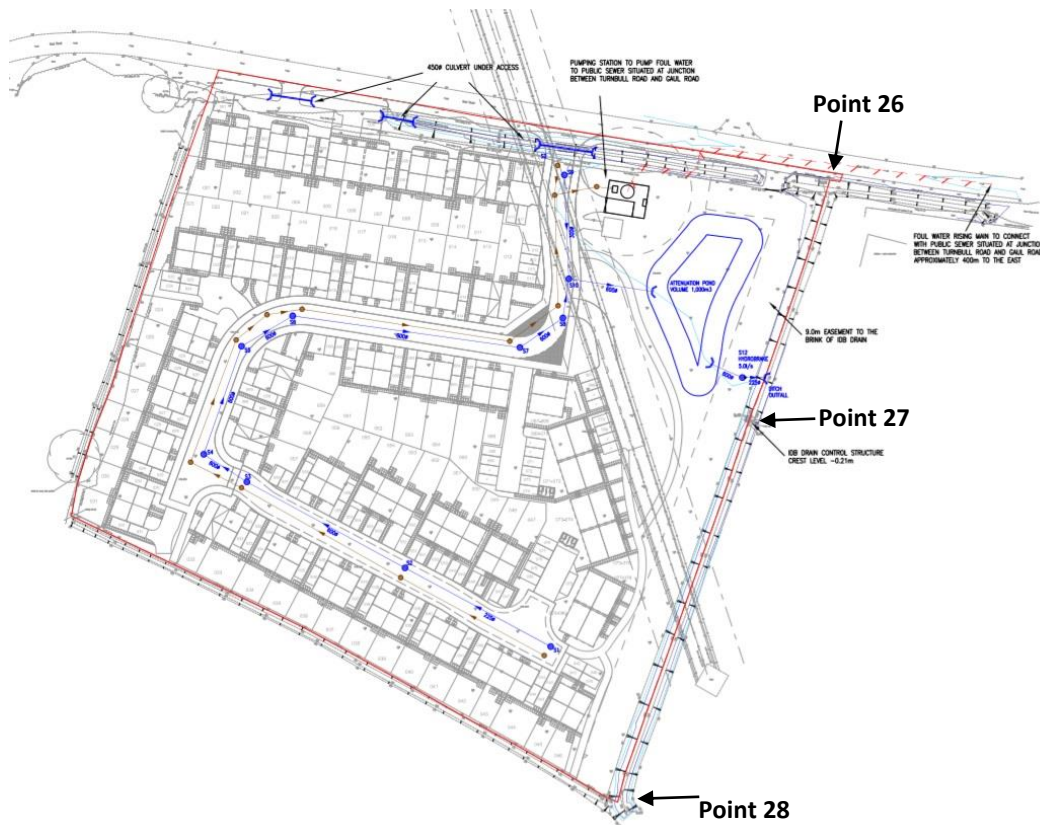
Typical Section Through Pond/Attenuation Tank
(1:50)

Extract from Peter Dann Limited Drawing No 10-6692 ZZ-DR-D2001Rev. P4 showing a cross section through the attenuation facility

Erection of agricultural buildings at land to the south east of Clevely, Burrowmoor Road, March – Mr & Mrs Bayes (MLC Ref Nos 278, 285, 324, 327 & 330)

Further to the last report there has been no further correspondence on the new planning application for an agricultural storage building. This building may be within 9 metres of the Commissioners' drain but is unlikely to affect the Commissioners' operations.

Residential development on the southern side of Gaul Road to the east of York Lodge
 – Partner Construction (MLC Ref Nos 279, 308, 343 & 360)



Extract from THDA Consulting Engineers Drawing No B18146C-100 Rev. P2

Subsequent to the last meeting further discussion occurred in June with both the LLFA and the applicant's consultant.

The last planning application, F/YR18/0455/F (MLC Ref No 343) was withdrawn in July. A revised planning application was submitted to the District Council and a decision is currently pending.

Erection of up to 53no dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) involving demolition of existing dwelling at Brewin Oaks, City Road, March – Executors of Mrs P Brewin (MLC Ref No 342)

A planning application has been submitted for the re-development of Brewin Oaks, the former property of the late Mrs P Brewin.

The LLFA has not objected to the application advising that:

“The above documents demonstrate that surface water from the proposed development can be managed through the use of permeable paving and geocellular storage, restricting surface water discharge to 1.0 l/s, discharging to a March 3rd IDB [sic] drain to the north of the site.

There is a slight discrepancy within the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (ref: 2187FRA & DS) regarding the amount of attenuation required for the development. Section 5.6.4 of the drainage strategy states that 190m³ of storage is required, whereas section 5.7.7 states that there should be 288.3m³ of storage. This discrepancy should be amended within the drainage strategy.

Infiltration rates should be worked out in accordance with BRE 365/CIRIA 156. If infiltration methods are likely to be ineffective then discharge into a watercourse/surface water sewer may be appropriate; however soakage testing will be required at a later stage to clarify this.

Part or all of your proposed development area falls within the Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) catchment and that of March 3rd IDB, whose consents are managed by the MLC. All increased discharges proposed to enter watercourses directly or indirectly or any works affecting watercourses or access to or along them for maintenance if the site is within the Board's district will require MLC/IDB consent. It is therefore recommended that you contact the MLC to discuss their requirements. Further information is available at: <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/>“

Despite the intention to dispose of surface water into the Commissioners' system and the contents of the LLFA correspondence, neither the applicant, nor its agents or consultant have contacted the Middle Level Commissioners to enquire whether this approach is acceptable or would be consented should the proposal proceed.

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Commissioners' opinion and further instruction.



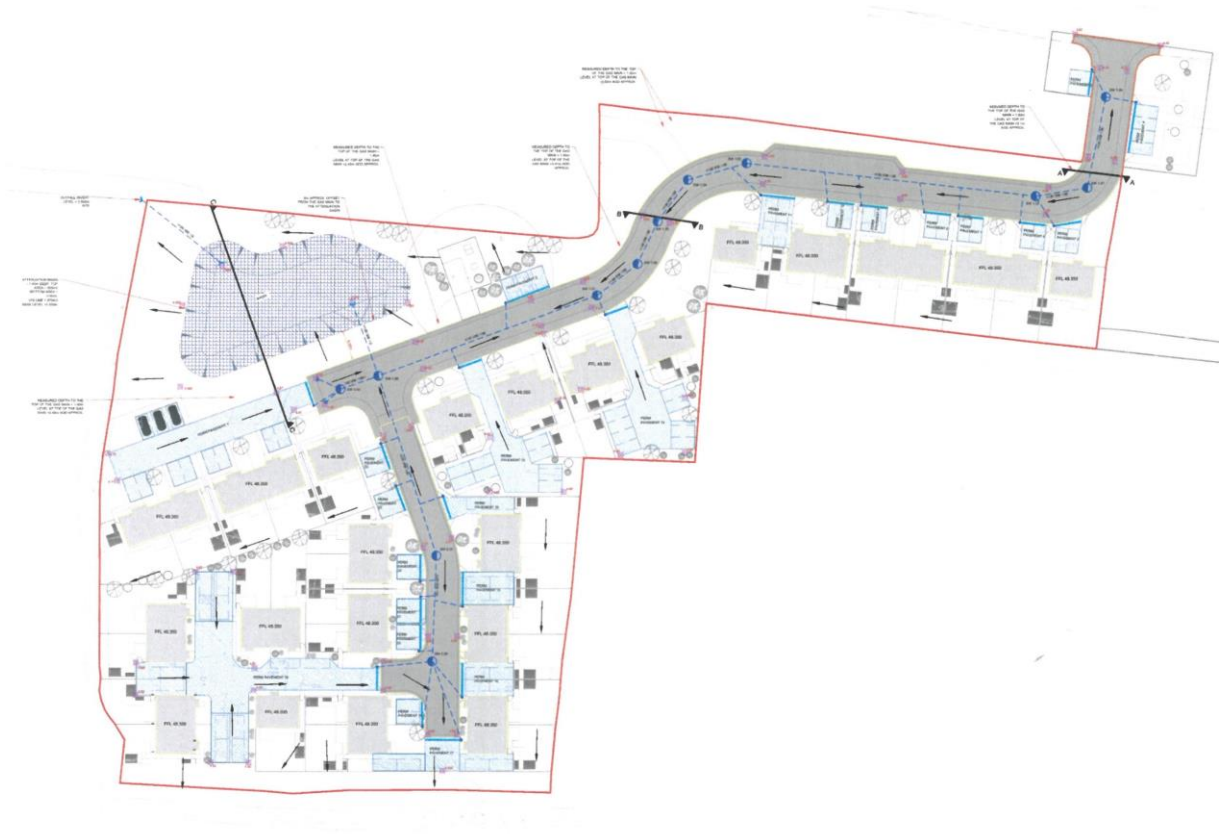
Extract from Brand Associate's ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN Drawing No. MARCH.EF 0 A

Residential development on land south west of 1 to 23 Springfield Avenue, March – Clarion Housing Group (MLC Ref No 353)

A planning application for the erection of forty dwellings, the formation of a surface water lagoon and pumping station and new access to cricket club was submitted to

the District Council in December and according to the District Council's Public Access webpage a decision is currently pending.

Following the completion of suitable ground investigation, which found the ground water table to be within 0.3m of the ground level, it is currently proposed that surface water disposal will be into the St Thomas' Cut system via an attenuation pond in the north western corner of the site.



Extract from Rossi Long Consulting's Drawing No. 171599 RLC-00-00-DR C-400 Rev. P1

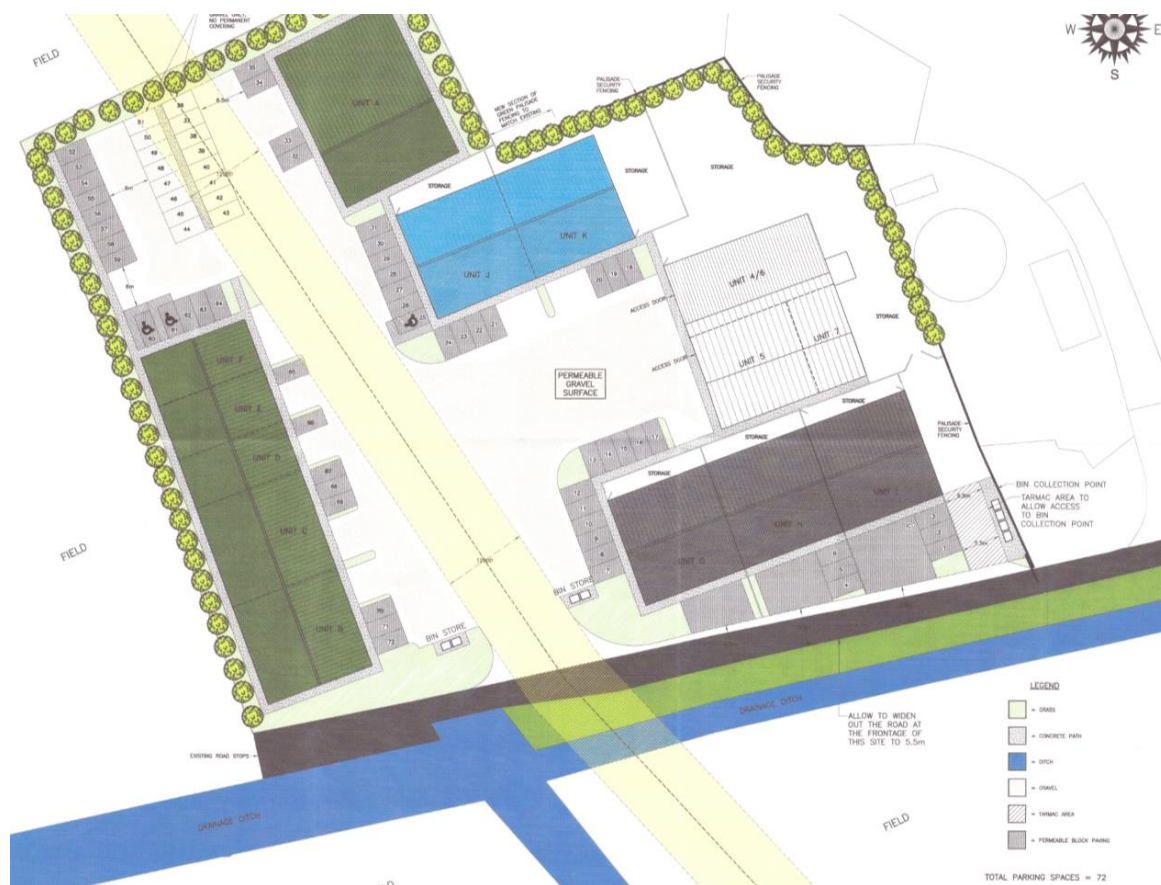
Based on the submission documents the County Council, in its role as the LLFA, has no objection in principle to the proposed development, subject to the imposition of suitable planning conditions, as the documents demonstrate that surface water from the proposed development can be managed through the use of permeable paving and a detention basin, restricting surface water discharge to QBAR. However, this has been challenged by a local landowner.

No consultation has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Erection of 11no industrial units (B1 & B2 use) and 2.0 metre high palisade fencing involving demolition of 6no existing units at Gaul Farm Industrial Units, Gaul Road, March - Millfield Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 357)

A planning application for the re-development of existing units at Gaul Farm was submitted to the District Council in January.

No consultation has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.



Extract from Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd's Drawing No. H5677/03A

In view of the close proximity to the Commissioners' system it would be beneficial to receive the Commissioners' opinion and further instruction.

Fenland District Council (FDC)

FDC Liaison Meeting

A follow up meeting was held on 28 March.

Planning Committee Decision at Estover Road, March

Members may be aware of the District Council's decision in relation to the outline planning application for a residential development at Estover Road, March. However, members may be interested in the principles established at the Committee Meeting in respect of the Board's/Commissioners' interests.

The March Fifth District Drainage Commissioners requested that the Middle Level Commissioners Planning Engineers represented them at the Planning Committee's September meeting.

It was interesting to note that the Commissioners' presence was acknowledged with one Councillor stating that as the Commissioners have made the effort to attend, the Committee should listen to them. Another comment made was that the Committee is concerned that Statutory Consultees do not attend the Planning Committee Meetings.

There was considerable support for the Drainage Boards particularly from Cllrs Bligh, Laws and Newell, but you will note the comments which were quite rightly made by Cllr Sutton and Nick Harding.

In view of this it appears that, within Fenland at least, the comments of the LLFA, as a Statutory Consultee, override that of the Commissioners, even though they have to receive and transfer any flows and deal with any resultant problems at their ratepayers' expense.

Relevant extracts from the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 September are copied below:

"F/YR15/0668/O

LAND NORTH OF 75-127, ESTOVER ROAD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

OUTLINE WITH ONE MATTER COMMITTED DETAILED AS ACCESS IN RELATION TO 95 NO DWELLINGS (MAX) WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, DRAINAGE AND OPEN SPACES

Middle Level Commissioners strongly object to the application.

Members received a presentation in accordance with the public participation from Mr Graham Moore (Middle Level commissioners), who was speaking on behalf of Middle Level Commissioners and March Fifth Internal Drainage Board [sic] and Mrs Liz Whitehouse, who were both speaking in objection to the Application.

It is the IDB not the Environment Agency, FDC, CCC or Anglian Water, which has to receive and transfer flows that emit from the site.

The site is located in flood zone 1 and the applicant has provided information to evidence that surface water from the development can be managed and there have been no

objections from the Lead Local Flood Authority and Environment Agency who are statutory consultees. The Middle Level Commissioners are not statutory consultees; however the queries that have been raised by them have been looked at by the applicant but as this is an outline planning application and it would not be reasonable to supply the information requested currently and the details relating to the design of the scheme and details regarding the drainage scheme details are unknown. The condition that the LLFA have requested will put an appropriate safeguard in place to ensure a suitable strategy is established prior to the commencement of construction.

Members asked questions, made comments and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Mrs Laws stated that it is a windfall site but the drainage issue is an area of concern. With regard to viability, the site does not deliver what it should and although the Section 106 Officer has looked into this. The development is therefore less sustainable than it should be.
- Councillor Sutton stated that he believes the development is sustainable. It is in flood zone 1 and the Lead Local Flood Authority who is a Statutory Consultee has no objection to the proposal. The issues concerning the discharge raised by Middle Level Commissioners and the IDB can be reviewed at a later stage and do not need to be considered today. Planning Committee Members have to make decisions on material planning reasons. The proposal does not go against the Neighbourhood Plan; if it did then Officers would not be recommending it for approval.
- Councillor Sutton stated he can see no material planning reason to refuse the application.
- Nick Harding stated that in terms of the surface water issues which have been raised. The IDB have recognised that the LLFA is the authority that we should be going to in consideration of these matters and if the NPPF is referred to it does state that major development should incorporate sustainable drainage systems and should take account of the advice of the LLFA. The advice from the LLFA is that this development proposal with conditions is acceptable.
- Nick Harding stated that he is very supportive of the IDB's they have a separate legal process which has to be complied with by persons who wish to discharge their surface water and just because planning permission is granted for a development it does not mean they are automatically going to get consent from the IDB's. The Developer still has to apply to the IDB and the detail for the scheme has to be agreed.
- Nick Harding stated that with regard to Anglian Water, they have raised no objection to this application. They have indicated that they will make necessary improvements to their network to ensure they can deal with the water and therefore as we do not have an objection from Anglian Water, and members should consider on what basis would we be able to defend a reason for refusal based on foul water capacity.

Following the meeting the Planning Engineer advised the Clerk to the Commissioners that:

"Whilst I was concerned when we originally stood back and stopped making bespoke responses to the LPA in preference to writing to the applicant and/or agent, which does cause some problems, the planning decision confirmed that this choice was the correct one,

as the Commissioners and associated Boards are not wasting their limited resources by issuing letters that will be ignored by the LPA. However, this procedure is, under the current circumstances, potentially wasteful as the developer, LPA and LLFA could put considerable effort into an application which may be granted planning permission but which a Board refuses to consent."

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards/Commissioners since the last meeting. The main matters that may be of interest to the Commissioners are as follows:

Quarterly Meetings

The most recent meeting was a joint meeting held with the Peterborough Flood & Water Management Partnership (PFLoW) of which the Middle Level Commissioners are also a partner. The number of meetings held each year may reduce from four to three.

Flood risk activities: environmental permits (formerly flood defence consents)

The Environment Agency's (EA) new Environmental Permitting Charging Scheme can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-charging-scheme>. Early engagement with the EA is recommended as a slight redesign of the proposal may reduce the fees required.

Riparian Responsibilities

There has been discussion about issues concerning land owner's responsibilities on riparian "private" watercourses and the amount of time and resources that are taken up by various RMAs, including the Boards/Commissioners, in dealing with riparian issues.

It was suggested that a recommendation be made to the RFCC. The options being considered are to do nothing; seek Government Support; or undertake an awareness campaign in the Public Domain with The Law Society, Local Government members etc. It is accepted by the partner members that some initial investment in time and resources may be required to progress these items further.

Discussions included the "Owning a watercourse" webpage, which replaced the Living on the Edge booklet, this is considered to be a backward step as the information that can be presented on the .gov.uk website is very limited.

The webpage can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>.

Hedge and Ditch Rule

Following a problem in the area covered by the Ely Group of IDBs this “common law” ruling that is mainly used to determine boundaries disputes and the requirements of the Land Drainage Act, notably Section 25, has been discussed with various parties including the former Commissioners’ and Boards’ Clerk, Iain Smith.

The latest ruling which dates to 2015 can be downloaded from the Mills and Reeve website, which can be found at <https://www.mills-reeve.com/boundaries-and-the-hedge-and-ditch-rule-12-07-2015/>

Bank Instability - Environment Agency (EA)/IDB approach

The EA and IDBs advised on their respective position in respect of reinstating channels that have failed. These are largely the same but due to cost constraints the EA now only stabilises channels where there are raised embankments.

For Award Drains the wording of the Award needs to be considered. Some refer to the landowner and not the Authority concerned.

IDB & LLFA Planning Process

An update was given on the LLFA’s discussions with North Level and District IDB, the Ely Group and the Middle Level Commissioners in order to attain a collective approach where possible.

However, it was explained that all three authorities have different approaches to some items and that any discussions with the planning authorities and agents may be iterative.

The LLFA/AWSL/MLC Liaison meetings have been briefly discussed. The EA expressed an interest in joining this group.

Emergency Planning & Response

A draft flooding newspaper article and a flood call questions template, for completion by reception staff when receiving a flooding related call, is currently being prepared by a member of the Flood & Water team.

Skills & Apprenticeships

The Government is promoting the use of Apprenticeships and it is noted that many authorities are using these in preference to other forms of training.

It is understood that the EA, together with other partners, is developing a new Apprenticeship Standard for Water Environment Workers in England. This aims to support the training and

development of workers who carry out operational activities in organisations where there is a responsibility to manage the impact of water environments, natural or manmade, on the land and surrounding businesses and homes. The water environment includes rivers, coasts (the sea), lakes, wetlands, canals and reservoirs.

County Council Public Sector Services

In addition to undertaking its role the group was advised that the Flood & Water Team may be extending its service to another County Council. The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has raised concerns with the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Business Manager about the potential deterioration of service within Cambridgeshire as a result.

RMA support & the Delivery of projects

Following concerns raised by IDBs and other RMAs the EA has engaged RMA support to assist in the delivery of projects. Funded by the Local Levy two LLFA and IDB Flood Risk Advisors have been recruited. Based at Ely they are the Commissioners'/Boards' point of contact in respect of FDGiA funding.

Initial meetings with the relevant advisor and the Middle Level Commissioners' staff have occurred.

RMA's Medium Term Programmes (MTP)

The RFCC has expressed a keen interest in knowing more about the different projects that partners in Cambridgeshire have put forward to the MTP for FDGiA. This is in part because the RFCC wants us all to understand each other's projects better. They would particularly like it if the RFCC Member Councillors for each County were familiar with all of the projects in their area and were able to champion them, not just the ones from their own organisation.

Therefore, the various relevant RMAs will be making presentations at Partnership meetings. As a result, as the largest promoter of such projects within Cambridgeshire, a presentation on the MTP prepared by the Middle Level Commissioners and its associated Boards has been made to the Partnership.

Rain Gauges Project

The Rain Gauge Network Project is progressing with the installation of gauges being undertaken in the next financial year.

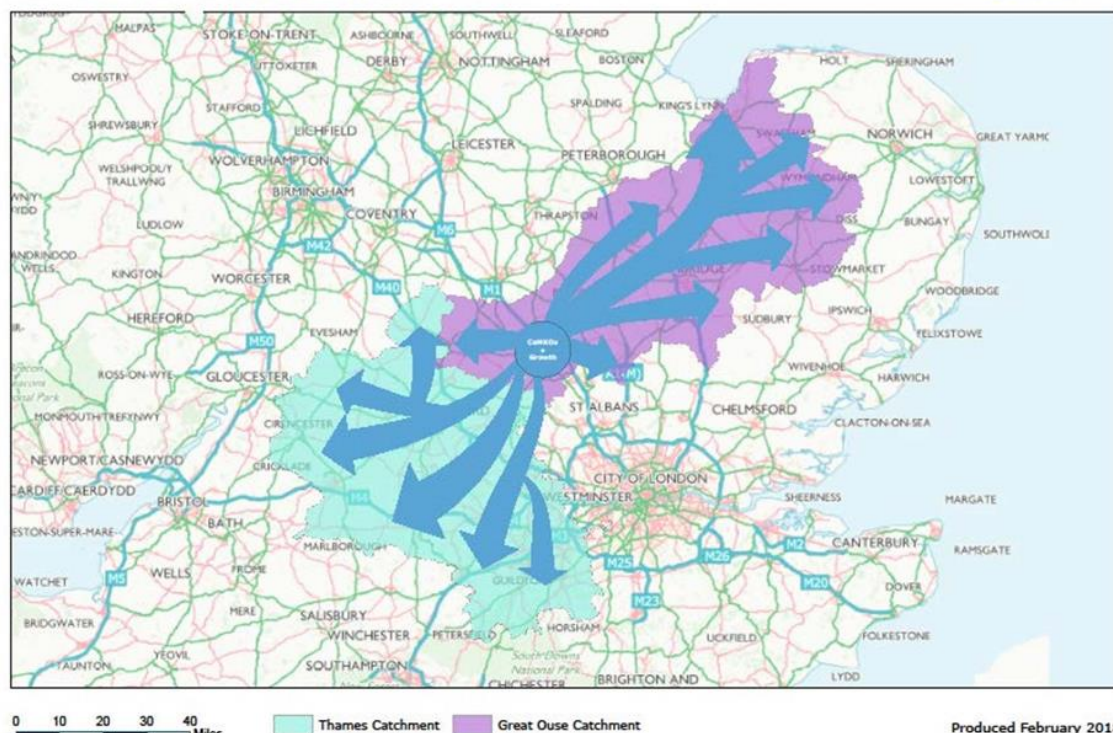
Update on RFCC's Growth Work

In order to accommodate the projected "growth", 500,000 new homes within the Cambridge – Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKOx) arc, within the Great Ouse Catchment five Local Choices

papers are currently being prepared on The Upstream Great Ouse Catchment, these will investigate the following:

- (i) Potential storage;
- (ii) Conveyance Study of the Main rivers to Denver Sluice, (this will investigate pinch points, silt deposition etc);
- (iii) A Modelling Workshop, (to use existing models as work needs to be completed now);
- (iv) An Economic Assessment, (this will include an assessment of Cost/Benefits and what it does to prevent flooding); and
- (v) The Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Link, (which will investigate potential benefits, water transfer/resources of the proposed new waterway between Kempston and the Grand Union Canal).

Cambridge - Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKOx) : Growth Corridor
Catchment of River Thames and River Great Ouse



The EA is looking for RMA involvement in the production of these papers.

Flood Risk Management Trainees

As part of closer partnership working, training has been given to junior members of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council staff and an undergraduate studying for a FRM degree under the EA foundation scheme. The main purpose of the training was to give the candidates a better and broader understanding of water level and flood risk management and also how the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards/Commissioners operate.

Feedback from both the candidates and internally has been positive and it is hoped that this opportunity can be offered again when the occasion arises.

One of the trainees wrote an article which was published in the Winter 2018 edition of the ADA Gazette. The article can be found at

<http://flickread.com/edition/html/index.php?pdf=5c101ead23d6e#13>

IDB Good Governance Guide/East Ridings of Yorkshire Council Guide

Matters raised by the East Ridings of Yorkshire Council, who had governance concerns over IDBs within its area of jurisdiction, were briefly discussed.

It is understood that correspondence was copied to all LLFAs and that Cllr Steve Count (Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council) provided a response which advised that the County Council had good partnerships with IDBs in the County.

ADA has subsequently launched its Good Governance for IDB Members guide at the ADA Conference which is primarily aimed at new Board members. Five workshops were held during March and April.

Further details on the guide can be found at the following link

<https://www.ada.org.uk/2018/11/ada-publishes-guide-to-good-governance-for-internal-drainage-board-members/>

The EA's 2018 Flood Action Campaign

Research undertaken by the EA in conjunction with the Red Cross reveals that most 18-34 year olds do not know what to do in a flood. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-most-at-risk-in-a-flood-warns-environment-agency-british-red-cross>

Highways England (HE) Environmental Designated Funds (Legacy funding)

This is one of five funds provided by HE associated with the Strategic Road Network – A1, A14, A47 etc, the others being Cycling, Safety and integration, Air Quality, Innovation and Growth and Housing.

The potential environmental funding is available for the following areas; noise, water, carbon, landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage and, therefore, could include flooding, pollution, water framework directive and biodiversity projects associated with the Strategic Road Network – A1, A14, A47 etc. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/highways-england-designated-funds>

This method of funding is being utilised by the following RMAs on the projects below:

(a) Environment Agency

Beck Brook at Girton - Legacy Fund and Local Levy match funding is being used to assist a flood alleviation scheme that was unable to achieve GiA.

Borrow Pits at Fenstanton – A potential flood alleviation scheme may be able to use Legacy funding.

(b) Cambridgeshire County Council

Bar Hill – Legacy funding for a potential £64k scheme.

Histon/Impington culvert replacement – The Legacy funding contribution is possible due to the site's close location to the A14.

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group

With the exception of trying to resolve the longstanding problems in the vicinity of Butt Avenue/Brewin Avenue/Kingswood Road, which is outside of the Commissioners' rateable area, as discussed above, there are currently no issues within the Commissioners' catchment.

An Update to the original 2014 March Flood Investigation Report, following the floods of August 2014, has recently been issued and can be found at the following link <https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/March%20flood%20investigation%202019.pdf?inline=true>.

The March Community Flood Group is being re-promoted as the EA's funding and resources permit. It is hoped that a workshop will be held during the year.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

The final report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER), prepared by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Commission ([CPIEC](#)) was published in September.

Jointly funded by the CPCA and Cambridge Ahead the report sets out how the CPIEC considers the area can sustain its own economy and support the UK economy whilst providing a better and more fulfilling way of life for the people who live and work in this area and details how this should be achieved, with fourteen key recommendations, and another thirteen subsidiary recommendations. Some of the suggested actions will be difficult to implement requiring close

collaboration between leading institutions in the area, this is likely to include the relevant RMAs including the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards/Commissioners, who will be needed to deliver them effectively.

Issues considered relevant to our interests include the following:

General

- a) The success of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a project of national importance.
- b) The Government should recognise the benefits further devolution to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough would bring

Flood Risk and Water Level Management

- a) The area has not been subject to dramatic flooding events in recent years, which can mean the issue is paid little attention.
- b) Flood risk infrastructure should be considered enabling infrastructure, in that it allows a great deal of economic activity to happen in the first place (land being the most fundamental of all the economic factors of production).
- c) In the fens, water has an especially significant effect on the local economy with much of the area classified by the EA as being in flood zone 3 and this presents challenges to local economic development. Finding solutions to this problem is likely to have to happen little by little, with the finer points of detail being worked through with the EA, Anglian Water, and others. Wisbech should be seen as a UK testbed for new flood-resistant approaches to development, and levels of investment in flood defence infrastructure should be substantially increased.
- d) It is estimated that during a serious drought scenario, England could face £1.3billion of lost economic activity every day.
- e) A requirement of 110l per person per day should be enforced in water stressed areas, and that in future councils should have the power to enforce 80l per person per day requirements for new developments where appropriate.

The Environment

NB. 'Natural capital' refers to the stock of living ('biodiversity') and non-living (eg minerals, water) resources that interact and provide a flow of services ('ecosystem services') upon which society depends. Some of these services are delivered locally, others may have national or international value. All other capitals (human, social, intellectual, manufactured, financial) are ultimately underpinned by natural capital.

- a) Climate change is already having a damaging effect on biodiversity and could put a strain on the water supply.
- b) Within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, most districts were put into the middle band for levels of natural capital, although fenland (perhaps unsurprisingly) scores highly on this measure.
- c) The fens must also be considered as one of the UK's greatest natural assets with a rich wetland ecosystem which affords great leisure opportunities. The value of this natural capital must not be overlooked.

Economic Growth

- a) The Commission reached the conclusion that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is not one, but three economies, the Greater Cambridge area, which includes Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, and parts of Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire; the Greater Peterborough area, the area around Peterborough; and the fens but should function significantly more as a single area than it does at present. This ought to be feasible whilst being compatible with each part of the Combined Authority area retaining its distinctive sense of place.
- b) A distinguishing feature of the whole area is how strongly it continues to grow outpacing both the East of England and UK over the last decade. This has been driven primarily, but not entirely, by rapid business creation and growth in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, where knowledge-intensive sectors are strongly clustered, densifying and highly dependent on their location.
- c) Evidence from the review identifies that both employment and turnover growth have been picking up right across the area. Employment growth has seen strong growth numbers in all districts but has been highest in East Cambridgeshire. Looking at growth rates in the global turnover of companies based in the area between 2010/11-2016/17 all six districts have seen turnover growth of over 2% per annum. In South Cambridgeshire this rises to over 10% per annum, which shows impressive company growth.

- d) Many very large firms, such as McCain and Del Monte, have plants in the north-east of the county and export from here around the world. Figures show that primary sectors constitute 24% of East Cambridgeshire's turnover, and 17% of Fenland's with Wholesale and Retail Distribution making up 33% of Fenland's turnover, and 28% of South Cambridgeshire's.
- e) The Netherlands, which has similar prevailing conditions to the fens but produces much higher-value agricultural goods, should be seen as an exemplar.
- f) Laws governing planning permission may impede business growth.
- g) It is very important to support the growth of market towns.
- h) There is a need for companies to invest in their employees.
- i) There is potential for greater commercial office development, particularly in Peterborough.

Housing

- a) To account for the fact that actual delivery of housing has been less than previously predicted and if employment growth continues to be significantly above what is forecast it might be necessary to build in the range of 6,000 – 8,000 houses per year over the next 20 years.
- b) In some areas, particularly in the north of Cambridgeshire, house prices are too low to make sufficient profit from development, rendering them unviable.
- c) There is positive evidence that ecological considerations are being taken seriously in new developments, with the new Eddington District in Cambridge being a notable example. Eddington reuses surface level water, reducing wastage and minimising flood risk.

Infrastructure

- a) Utilities underpin all economic activity, and there are areas of concern, particularly regarding electricity capacity. The government has committed to banning new diesel and petrol vehicles from 2040, but if it is envisioned that these will be replaced by

electric vehicles, substantial levels of investment into upgrading the grid will be needed.

- b) The importance that flood defence infrastructure and the equally clear stresses upon water in one of the UK's driest counties are recognised.
- c) The level of the infrastructure of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been inadequate for too long. The growth seen in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire seems very unlikely to be sustained in the future without further and significant investment in infrastructure.
- d) A package of transport and other infrastructure projects to alleviate the growing pains of Greater Cambridge should be considered the single most important infrastructure priority facing the Combined Authority in the short to medium term. These should include the use of better digital technology to enable more efficient use of current transport resources.

Projects that seem likely to further this aim are the full dualling of the A47, better connecting the Peterborough economy to the Fenland economy; the A10, better connecting the Cambridge economy to the Fenland economy; and improvements to rail between Peterborough and Cambridge, particularly the Ely North junction thus better connecting all three economies.

- e) There should be greater awareness of potential supply chains and scope for collaboration within the region.
- f) It was suggested that several elements were needed to underpin the approach to financing infrastructure:
 - An Investment Fund should be created to execute priorities which leverages third party resources, meaning a sustainable momentum can be achieved by the prudent use of public resources (from both local and central government)
 - An Investment Pipeline should be established showing what is feasible to be delivered over a three, five, and ten-year period
 - A Mayoral Development Platform (such as a development corporation) is needed to facilitate and support development in collaboration with the private sector

(investors and developers) and wherever practicable the community in which development takes place.

- Relevant RMAs possibly including the Commissioners and associated Boards may be asked to contribute to these.

Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens Technical Group [previously reported as the Future Fenland Project]

The EA has recently commenced the FRM for the Fens Project to determine the best way of managing future flood risk. As a result a technical group has been formed, including representation from the Middle Level Commissioners.

The project was discussed at the EAs Large Projects Review Group (LPRG) meeting in November. The LPRG stated that all partners who seek future Flood Risk Management Grant-in-Aid (GiA) funding but do not share its data for the Baseline Report are likely to be denied, or capped to 45%, as they will not be able to demonstrate a strategic approach.

The project is currently at the data collection stage and details of the Commissioners' system and any hydraulic models are being collated to inform Capita, the consultant who has been appointed to progress Phase 1 of the project.

A letter from the EA has been issued to the Chairman and a copy follows for your information. This included a copy of the "elevator pitch", used by the EA to provide some background to the project. Please note that the extent of the geographical area shown has recently been amended.

Chief Engineer

23 April 2019

March Third (313)\Reports\April 2019

Letter to Chairman
Internal Drainage Boards
Middle Level Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs
PE15 0AH

Our ref: ENV0000678C
Your ref
Date: 15 January 2019

Dear Chairman

Flood Risk Management for the Fens

Between Local Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency, we are modern day custodians of arguably the richest legacies of flood risk and drainage management in the country. I am sure you and your Board are really proud, like I am, to have a responsibility for critical infrastructure within a landscape that is hugely important for the economy, communities, food, farming and the natural environment.

The future of the Great Ouse Fens is something I am passionate about and with IDB clerks and engineers we are starting a partnership and collaborative approach to their future flood management. This letter summarises where we are and some of the important steps ahead. We really need your ideas, enthusiasm, advocacy, support and knowledge about this fantastic part of the country.

In recent years flood and drainage management in the Fens has been undertaken in somewhat of a piecemeal approach and reactive manner. With climate change projections and many of our assets coming to the end of their design life, we now collectively need to take a more strategic and long term approach. This will enable us all to maximise financial leverage and present a stronger more considered investment case to funding bodies.

Flood risk management for the Fens is a project set up to consider what the future flood risk management choices for the Great Ouse Fens could look like. This will help us develop a strategic approach together that will underpin and frame all flood and coastal risk management investment in the Fens moving forward. This is a key requirement of Defra's partnership funding policy (see attached note).

The attached document provides further details about the project, including the details of those flood risk management organisations involved in the Technical Group. David will hopefully have already briefed you on this work and will be your primary engagement link as the project moves forward.

Supported by the Anglian (Central) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee and with the help of the Technical Group, we have recently secured a funding package and obtained financial approval for Phase 1 of the project. The main products of this phase includes:

- A baseline report to gain a shared understanding of all land drainage and flood risk management assets, the economics, government grant eligibility level and partnership funding challenge for all sources of flooding. *This will be presented in a similar way to the Great Ouse Tidal River Baseline Report (we can provide a copy if you don't already have one) Anticipated delivery date Feb 2020.*
- Visualisation tools to showcase the findings of the baseline report in a way that informs and excites a wide variety of audiences. *Anticipated delivery date late 2020 after the baseline report to share key messages from the report.*

For Phase 1 we have not sought financial contributions from individual IDBs within the Great Ouse Fens, however the success of the work and effective use of the funding we have secured is hugely dependent upon the timely provision of asset and financial data from all Risk Management Authorities. Since July 2018, we have been working as part of the Technical Group on the specification and provision of this data.

We are aiming to appoint consultants for Phase 1 by early February 2019 and we are keen to have this data before then. Therefore it is vital that we have your support in helping your clerks and engineers to provide this information in a timely manner and by the 21 January 2019.

This will enable the project to move forward efficiently avoiding abortive costs, and help us to continue to support your IDB in seeking FCRM Grant in Aid (GiA) for individual investments. If we have gaps or deficiencies in the data then we will not be developing a strategic approach and are unlikely to be successful in maximising FCRM GiA funding for future projects.

Alongside Phase 1 we also collectively need to start to plan for Phase 2 of this work. Phase 2 is likely to start in approximately 5 years' time and most likely be a strategic options appraisal, to identify the choices for medium and long term flood risk management in the Fens.

Amongst the many benefits of this work, it will help us all better inform, influence and justify the source, nature and levels of funding required to

evolve and manage flood and drainage infrastructure over the medium and long term. The scope and governance arrangements for Phase 2 will all need to be developed and agreed collaboratively and there is no presumption that the Environment Agency will lead.

Initial estimates from similar projects are that Phase 2 may cost in the region of £10 million to £15 million, and significant levels of partnership funding will be needed to be sourced to unlock and complement FCRM GiA. Therefore an investment strategy will be developed in parallel to Phase 1. Your Board may want to consider sooner rather than later how they choose to plan for this.

In the short term, whilst the strategic work is progressing, we all still need to continue to invest in the flood and drainage infrastructure within the Fens, without prejudicing any medium and long term choices. To frame this and support investment decision making in being as effective and efficient as possible, through the Technical Group we are also developing tactical plans for the Fens. These are looking at how we apportion benefits across respective infrastructure and apply these to upcoming investments. Once these are ready it may be useful to present to your Board.

It is a really interesting and exciting time with all this work. I hope you and your Board are supportive of the approach. If you have any questions or would like further information then please contact David, myself or our Project Executive, Claire Bell (Claire.Bell@Environment-Agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for East Anglia Area (Great Ouse catchment inc North West Norfolk coast)

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The Strategic Approach for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Projects

Supplementary Local Guidance Version 1

In both Defra Policy Statements (Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management June 2009 and Partnership Funding May 2011) demonstrating and evidencing a strategic approach to flood or coastal erosion risk is a requirement for every project, to ensure value for money for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA).

Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) form the large scale holistic view of risk management requirements at the catchment or coastal process scale, beneath which more detailed strategies, and the local scale risk management activities should be developed.

Primarily, all schemes seeking FCERM GiA allocation should be in line with or compliment any overarching strategic plan such, for example, the Great Ouse CFMP.

"SMPs or CFMPs will have collected information on the economic, environmental and social assets at risk, the defences or coast protection works that are in place and identified preferred policies. The SMP or CFMP will also have engaged with stakeholders and you may be able to draw some information from the results. Early links need to be made with SMPs or CFMPs and strategies (where applicable) as they may have already identified key issues and broad solutions (in CFMPs these are called generic responses). It is essential to link the problem back to the policy as defined in the SMP or CFMP (and for schemes, to the description of the strategy, where available) to ensure continuity is not lost. Any conflicts between the description of the problem for your project and the recommendation of the SMP or CFMP (or strategy) will need to be highlighted and reconciled before you can progress further." - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Appraisal Guidance, 2010.

The meaning of a 'strategic approach' is described throughout the FCERM Appraisal Guidance, March 2010, mainly in Chapter 3. It needs to include consideration of wider factors such as the economic, environmental, recreational and social factors that may affect or be affected by the proposed investment opportunity. These wider factors will then subsequently influence the selection of investment options to manage or mitigate the flood or coastal erosion risks. At the early stages of appraisal a wide range and broad portfolio of options should be identified, such as a change in pumping regimes, storage options and combining flood cells and assets for example. These options should be appropriate to the scale and type of project being undertaken.

Any strategic evaluation should be done as early as possible when planning a FCERM project. Findings should be evidenced within the business case, however, as this is produced much later than the initial project submission is submitted to the Environment Agency (through PAFS) it may be required that evidence of a strategic approach be made available to the Environment Agency on request in advance of the programme refresh. Failure to submit such evidence on request, will result in the maximum grant rate for the scheme being reduced to 45%.

"Where there is not a clear strategic approach setting out how benefits are apportioned to individual investments within a system of assets, the maximum grant rate allowable will be reduced to 45%. This means that all risk management authorities, including internal drainage boards, could receive up to 100% grant levels. The reduced grant rate, relevant for all risk management authorities, helps preserve value for money in cases where investments may only score well because benefits are being double-counted." – Partnership Funding Policy 2011

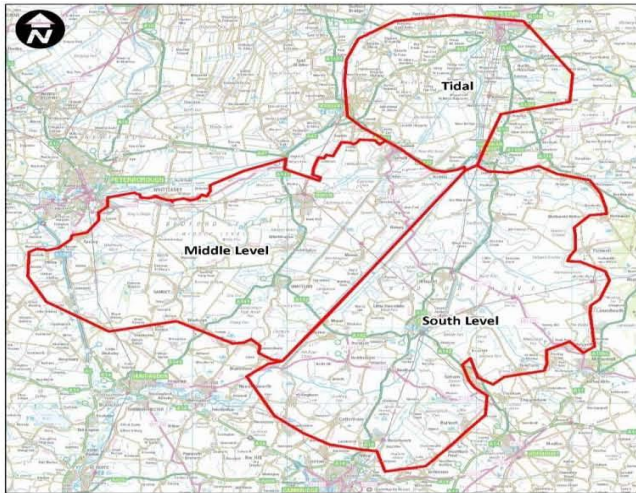
It is understood that there is a significant variation in the types of schemes which may be eligible for FCERM GiA funding. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the attention given to investigating a strategic approach should be proportional to the size of the scheme. Therefore, for smaller schemes (affecting a lower number of outcome measures and/or seeking a smaller sum of funding) a discussion of how a scheme aligns with a strategic approach may suffice. This could be evidenced, for example in notes accompanying a PAFS submission or captured within meeting minutes held in the early planning stages. Similarly, a larger scheme will require a more substantial demonstration. Any such scheme should be able to include, or reference any strategic analysis prior to PAFS submission or annual programme refresh.

This guidance reinforces the Defra Policy Statements ([Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management June 2009](#) and [Partnership Funding May 2011](#)), if these National policies change in the future, this guidance will be amended accordingly.

Flood risk management for the Fens – planning together for a sustainable flood risk future

‘Flood risk management for the Fens’ is a project that has been set up to plan the best way of managing future flood risk in the Great Ouse Fen Area. We are currently in the **first phase** of this project which is developing a shared understanding of the situation and challenges for managing flood risk (from all sources) in the Fens.

A Technical Group (TG) has been formed of organisations (see below) who have **flood risk assets**, or represent those with assets, in the geographical area that has been defined as the Great Ouse Fens.



We are **working together** to set out all the data about flood risk in the area outlined – defining who is managing flood risk, asset maintenance costs and potential available Flood Risk Management Grant in Aid (Government funding). This will identify any difference in **investment needs versus available funding**.

The most important outcome for the first phase of work is for the TG to have a **shared understanding** of the issues and challenges for managing flood risk in the Fens, and to have a **shared ownership** for taking action to overcome these issues.

Pressures on the Fens will come from many sources including, for example, climate change causing sea level rise affecting the Tidal River and the systems discharging into it, and catchment pressures from housing and infrastructure growth.

Following this initial data gathering phase, which we hope to complete in the next 18-24 months, we will produce a **joint project plan** for the next phase of work. The outcome of Phase 2 will be to produce a jointly owned strategic plan reviewing all options that could manage flood risk in the Fens, taking in to account climate change and sea level rise and recommending actions that will be the best/ most appropriate way of managing flood risk in the Fens over the next 50-100 years.

The TG will work closely with the Environment Agency's Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Partnerships and Strategic Overview Team who are progressing a similar project for the Lincolnshire Fens, but at different timescales.

The TG understands that there are **many different areas of interest** within the Fens, and a lot of groups and individuals will be interested in the work of the project.

At this stage in the project, there is a very **strong focus on the flood risk management challenges** – specifically focusing on current flood risk management assets. We will keep interested stakeholders updated with the progress of this stage of the project and **our work will be overseen by the Anglian Central Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**.

The TG is aware of the importance of linking Phase 1 outputs to other projects shaping the future of the Fens landscape.

Flood risk management for the Fens Project

Phase 1
Data gathering
and collective
ownership

Phase 2
High level
action plan /
strategy

Phase 3
onwards
Phased action
plans



Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards



middle level
commissioners



The Commissioners noted the maintenance works which had been carried out since their last meeting. Messrs Ashman had indicated that they were willing to undertake the Commissioners' flail mowing requirements this year and a sum had been included in the estimate costs for flail mowing of the District drains to be undertaken this year. The Commissioners noted the need for the application of herbicides at drains to the west of the bypass to control cott growth and that there had been a growth of watercress within the Gaul Road drain adjacent to the Cannon Kirk site which will need to be treated with herbicide.

With regards to the following planning application and development sites:-

- a) Proposed re-development of the former Old Dairy Buildings, Grange Road, March (MLC Ref Nos. 156, 165, 170, 178, 209, 221, 251 & 253) for HR Property Development, Messrs B Sutton, G Harradine and M Reynolds.
- b) Residential development at 125 Burrowmoor Road, March (MLC Ref Nos. 200, 242 & 245) for Mrs H Butler and Mason Homes (March) Ltd.
- c) Residential development to the north west of Turnbull Road, off Gaul Road, March (MLC Ref Nos. 211, 226, 256 & 266) for Ashley King Developments.
- d) Erection of 8 dwellings at site of 43-47 The Causeway, March (MLC Ref Nos. 227 and 261) for Anglian Regional Co-Op Society and GCC Investments (UK) Ltd .
- e) Residential development on land west of 12 Knights End Road, March (MLC Ref Nos. 204, 207, 252, 291 and 349) for Cannon Kirk Homes Ltd, Construct Reason and George Scarborough Ltd.
- f) Residential development north of 33 Gaul Road fronting Oxbow Crescent, March (MLC Ref Nos. 168, 183, 214, 240, 256, 270, 276, 306, 316, 338, 352) for Mr F Grounds, Gaul Developments LLP, Construct Reason Ltd and Millfield Developments
- g) Planning application for affordable rent and shared ownership at the site of the former Kingswood Park Care Home, Kingswood Road, March (MLC Ref Nos. 244, 249, 259, 341 & 344) for Sanctuary Group
- h) Residential development on land south west of 1-23 Springfield Avenue, March (MLC Ref No. 353) for Clarion Housing Group

the Commissioners noted the position on these developments and advised that no further action was required by the Consulting Engineers.

Signalised junction improvements to Gaul Road/A141 junction and the installation of a new updated culvert under Gaul Road at points 25-56

The Consulting Engineers reported that this matter had now been undertaken by the Developer and this work had now been completed.

Culvert under the A141 storage lagoon and associated drain works

The Commissioners noted the position on these proposals and agreed that the Consulting Engineers should progress a meeting with the applicant and his consultants to discuss the various issues involved with the proposal.

Extension to West End Park

The Commissioners considered the Consulting Engineers update on this matter and requested that, if this development receives planning permission, the Consulting Engineers should ensure that the small culvert goes in and that they should chase the applicants if the application is not received. On the resolution of the planning application then they should write to the applicants concerning this aspect of the development.

Erection of up to 53 dwellings at Brewin Oaks, City Road, March (MLC Ref No. 342) for the Executors of Mrs P Brewin

The Commissioners considered the report of the Consulting Engineers and requested that the Consulting Engineers chase the Developer regarding the surface water consent.

Erection of industrial units at Gaul Farm Industrial Units, Gaul Road, March (MLC Ref No. 357) for Millfield Developments Ltd

The Commissioners considered this report and requested that the Consulting Engineers write to the applicant regarding the access strip as some of the development was close to the Commissioners' drain and also that the Consulting Engineers look out the arrangements for surface water disposal.

RESOLVED

i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.

ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the recommended maintenance works be undertaken.

iii) Culvert under the A141 storage lagoon and associated drain works

That the Consulting Engineers progress a meeting with the applicant and his consultants to discuss the various issues involved with the proposal.

iv) Extension to West End Park

That the Consulting Engineers ensure that, if this development receives planning permission, the small culvert goes in and to chase the applicants if the application is not received on resolution of the planning application then they should write to the applicants concerning this aspect of the development.

v) Erection of up to 53 dwellings at Brewin Oaks, City Road, March (MLC Ref No. 342) for the Executors of Mrs P Brewin

That the Consulting Engineers chase the Developer regarding the surface water consent.

vi) Erection of industrial units at Gaul Farm Industrial Units, Gaul Road, March (MLC Ref No. 357) for Millfield Developments Ltd

That the Consulting Engineers write to the applicant regarding the access strip as some of the development was close to the Commissioners' drain and also that the Consulting Engineers look out the arrangements for surface water disposal.

(NB) – Mrs Siggee declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref No. 355) received for Messrs Siggee & Mrs Sanderson

C.1076 Capital Improvement Programme

The Commissioners considered their future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.

C.1077 District Officer's Report

In the absence of the District Officer, no report was received.

C.1078 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss McShane referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2018, previously circulated to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

C.1079 District Officer's Fee

The Commissioners gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2019/2020.

Miss McShane referred to the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award indicator which was 3.0%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Commissioners agree that the sum of £1,504.00 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2019/2020.
- ii) That, in future years, an increase in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award be made to the District Officer.

C.1080 State-aided Schemes

Consideration was given to the desirability of undertaking further State-aided Schemes in the District and whether any future proposals should be included in the capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

Update on the EA grant-in-aid position

Miss McShane reported that the EA undertook a 'refresh' of its grant allocation schedule and optimised it to increase the likelihood of meeting the government outcome measure targets. As part of this some schemes were deferred in favour of those which could be delivered within the next two years with certainty and the programme has, as a consequence, become financially oversubscribed. This effectively means that there will be little or no chance of receiving grant for any new schemes between now and 2021 (at the earliest). This date marks the end of the six-year funding commitment and whilst it is understood that the EA are pressing hard to have another six-year settlement and, if agreed to by treasury, for this to be larger than the previous one to help address the increasing investment required to tackle climate change driven impacts. At this point in time we do not know what will happen and changes could be made in any event to the funding model, what outcome targets are or the process of securing grant. What is clear is that the further ahead that IDBs collectively plan their investment needs the more likely whatever grant is available will be accessible by them.

Some members will recall that in 2009 asset surveys were carried out on all IDB pumping stations. As ten years has now passed it might be timely to revisit and update these to reflect any changes that might have occurred and for this updated information to be used to plan for future investment needs. Similarly, as it is five years since these assets were valued for insurance reasons, it is also considered worthwhile revising the rebuilding estimates to reflect construction cost inflation.

RESOLVED

- i) That no proposals be formulated at the present time.
- ii) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to undertake an asset survey.

C.1081 Environment Agency – Precept

Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2019/2020 in the sum of £1,850.26 (the precept for 2018/2019 being £1,762).

C.1082 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

(a) Miss McShane reported that the sum of £611.20 (£2,387.49 less £1,776.29 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Commissioners' actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2017/2018 together with the sum of £1,560.58 in respect of 80% of the Commissioners' estimated expenditure for the financial year 2018/2019.

(b) Further to minute C.1040(b), Miss McShane referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies available to fund highland water claims.

RESOLVED

That the position be noted and the situation kept under review.

C.1083 Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Subscriptions

Miss McShane reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2019, viz:- from £542 to £553.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2019.

b) Future ADA Communications

Miss McShane referred to a letter received from ADA dated 18th October 2018 and to the form included with the agenda.

In order to continue to receive communications from ADA in 2019, ADA required a completed form from each Member. The form could also be completed and returned electronically via the link at www.ada.org.uk/communications.

C.1084 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £2.00.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

C.1085 Health and Safety

Miss McShane reported on the discussions at the Middle Level and Associated Drainage Board's Chairs meeting and that a request was made to seek to either take on an additional employee or employ a contractor to specifically support the Drainage Board's to help them meet their legal Health and Safety requirements and also deliver the specified requirements of the Board's insurers who are calling for evidence that appropriate measures are in place to manage Health and Safety.

She reported that the Clerk had now appointed Cope Safety Management on a 3 year contract at a cost of £27,000 to give advice and assistance to the Boards on health and safety matters, including assistance with the preparation of risk assessments.

This cost was to be divided between those Boards who wished to take up the services of Cope Safety Management and would be apportioned depending on the size of the Board, the number of pumping stations and employees of the Board.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter dated the 25th April stating that for March Third DDC the sum would be £200 per annum, plus £85 per hour for any additional work that the Board requested from the contractor.

RESOLVED

That Cope Safety Management be appointed for a period of three years at a cost of £200 per annum, together with additional charges for any extra assistance requested.

C.1086 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Commissioners – 2017/2018

- a) The Commissioners considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.
- b) The Commissioners considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.

C.1087 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss McShane referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2017/2018.

C.1088 Budgeting

Miss McShane referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

C.1089 Review of Internal Controls

The Commissioners considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.

C.1090 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Commissioners considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management system.
- b) The Commissioners reviewed and approved the insured value of their buildings and considered having a professional valuation of the Commissioners' real estate assets, as required for insurance purposes.

RESOLVED

That no changes be made to the valuation at this time and for the matter to be reviewed again at the next annual meeting.

C.1091 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss McShane referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

C.1092 Annual Governance Statement – 2018/2019

The Commissioners considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2019.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Commissioners, for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

C.1093 Payments

The Commissioners considered and approved payments amounting to £25,853.08 which had been made during the financial year 2018/2019.

C.1094 Annual Accounts of the Commissioners – 2018/2019

The Commissioners considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2019 as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Commissioners, for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

C.1095 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2019/2020

The Commissioners considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2019/2020 and were informed by Miss McShane that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 15.96% and 84.04%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £856 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £137 and £719 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 0.25p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £719 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.

vi) That the seal of the Commissioners be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).

vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

C.1096 Display of rate notice

RESOLVED

That notice of the rate be affixed within the District in accordance with Section 48(3)(a) of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

C.1097 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Commissioners be held on **WEDNESDAY** the 6th May 2020.